

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 32, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 3, bridging pages 32 and 33, with the following amended paragraph:

--Fig. 2 is a flowchart illustrating an example of a process done by the server device 1 at the time a user authentication information setting request is input from a server-side local maintenance console 2. When a system manager or so inputs a user authentication information setting request including information designating a client device 3 where user authentication information is to be set (e.g., a client device name to specifically identify a client device) and a user name and password as user authentication information to be set from the server-side local maintenance console 2, the request receiving section 11 receives the request (S101) and checks the authentication of the numbers of digits or so of the user name and password (S102). In case where the numbers of digits or so do not meet a predetermined condition, the request is denied. When the user name and password are checked OK, the request receiving section 11 transfers the received user authentication information setting request to the request transfer section 12 (S103). Next, the request transfer section 12 checks the IP address of the client device 3 designated in the user authentication information setting request by referring to, for example, a correlation table (not shown) or so of client device names and IP addresses (S104), and sends a user authentication information setting instruction

including the user name and password in the user authentication information setting request to the target client device 3 over the LAN 6 using the IP address (S105). When an end-of-user-authentication-information-setting notification is returned from the target client device 3, the request ~~receiving~~ transfer section [[11]] 12 receives the notification (S106) and transfers it to the request receiving section 11 (S107), and the request receiving section 11 sends the end-of-user-authentication-information-setting notification to the server-side local maintenance console 2 (S108).--

Page 33, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 10, bridging pages 33 and 34, with the following amended paragraph:

-- Fig. 3 is a flowchart illustrating an example of a process done by the server device 1 at the time a nullification-of-user-authentication-information-setting request is input from the server-side local maintenance console 2. When a system manager or so inputs a nullification-of-user-authentication-information-setting request designating a client device 3 setting of whose user authentication information is to be nullified from the server-side local maintenance console 2, the request receiving section 11 receives the request (S111) and transfers the received nullification-of-user-authentication-information-setting request to the request transfer section 12 (S112). Next, the request transfer section 12 checks the IP address of the client device 3 designated in the nullification-of-user-

authentication-information-setting request (S113), and sends a nullification-of-user-authentication-information-setting instruction to the target client device 3 over the LAN 6 using the IP address (S114). When an end-of- nullification-of-user-authentication-information-setting notification is returned from the target client device 3, the request ~~receiving~~ transfer section ~~[[11]]~~ 12 receives the notification (S115) and transfers it to the request receiving section 11 (S116), and the request receiving section 11 sends the end-of-nullification-of-user-authentication-information-setting notification to the server-side local maintenance console 2 (S117).--

Page 34, replace the paragraph, beginning on line 9, bridging pages 34 and 35, with the following amended paragraph:

--Each client device 3 has a maintenance interface 30 which is typified by a Telnet interface, and includes a maintenance target portion 31 to be subjected to maintenance, a user authentication section 32, a remote request processing section 33, a local request processing section 34 and a log-in/log-out processing section 35. The user authentication section 32 ~~preforms~~ performs user authentication on a user who maintains the maintenance target portion 31 based on authentication information. The remote request processing section 33 receives a user authentication information setting request and a nullification-of-user-authentication-information-setting request, sent from the server device 1 over the LAN 6,

and executes processes according to the requests. The local request processing section 34 receives the user authentication information setting request and nullification-of-user-authentication-information-setting request input from the client-side local maintenance console 4 and executes processes according to the requests. The maintenance target portion 31 is, for example, a memory which stores the operational status and failure status of hardware and software, constituting the client device 3, and various kinds of system setting data, software itself or the like. The maintenance of the maintenance target portion 31 is reference to the operational status and failure status stored in the memory, and an operation for, for example, alteration of the system setting data and software.--